

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 00357 092025 Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0357

AIDAC

SUBJECT: PL 480 TITLE II- PROGRAM JUSTIFICATION

REFS: (A) AIDTO CIRC A-4

(B) STATE 040416

1. THE FINAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL FOOD AND NUTRITION SURVEY CARRIED OUT IN MID-1971 BY THE CARIBBEAN FOOD AND NUTRITION INSTITUTE CONCLUDES THAT 18.2 PERCENT OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE SUFFER FROM EITHER MODERATE OR SEVERE PROTEIN CALORIC MALNUTRITION ACCORDING TO THE GOMEZ CLASSIFICATION. THIS PERCENTAGE IS EXCLUSIVE OF THE NATIVE AMERINDIAN POPULATION WHICH INHABITS THE SAVANNAH AND JUNGLE AREAS. IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY FIRM DATA, IT IS WIDELY ASSUMED THAT THE PREVALENCE OF MALNUTRITION AMONG THEM IS FAR HIGHER. IT IS TO THIS GROUP THAT THE MISSION'S PROPOSED PROGRAMS ARE INCREASINGLY TARGETED AS COMPARED WITH RECENT YEARS.

2. ADDITIONALLY, A KEY ELEMENT OF THE RATIONALE FOR THE CONTINUATION OF TITLE II PROGRAMS HAS BEEN THAT THESE PROGRAMS ARE SEEN BY THE COUNTRY TEAM AS AN IMPORTANT TOOL IN FURTHERING U. S. OBJECTIVES IN GUYANA. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE TODAY, IN VIEW OF RECENT STRESSES AND STRAINS THAT HAVE OCCURRED WITH RESPECT TO OUR RELATIONS, E. G., THE RECENT RECOGNITION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA.

3. WITH REGARD TO THE POSSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT INCREASING ITS FOOD INPUTS INTO TITLE II, PROSPECTS CURRENTLY ARE NOT TOO BRIGHT. WHILE THE GOVERNMENT HAS EXPERIMENTED WITH A RICE-SOY BLEND, IT IS NOT EXPECTED THAT IT WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THIS AS A SUBSTITUTE FOOD

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 GEORGE 00357 092025 Z

INPUT FOR SEVERAL YEARS. AS REGARDS RICE, THEGOG HAS BEEN HAVING TROUBLE OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS MEETING BOTH ITS DOMESTIC AND CARIFTA COMMITMENTS. WEATHER IS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR HERE OBVIOUSLY, BUT WITH THE PRESENT DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN UYANA IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT ANY SIGNIFICANT RICE CONTRIBUTION CAN BE MADE FOR FY 1974. SOYBEAN IS ANOTHER POTENTIAL SUBSTITUTE, BUT ANNUAL PRODUCTION IS SMALL, AND THE GOG HAS NO INTENTION OF GOING INTO COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION UNTIL IT HAS A GOOD SECOND VARIETY IN HAND, IN ADDITION TO THE PRESENT JUPITER VARIETY. OTHER LOCALLY PRODUCED FOODS ARE GENERALLY HIGH IN CARBOHYDRATES AND MARKETING IS HIGHLY SEASONAL AND DISORGANIZED.

4. FOR CY 1973 THE GOG HAS BUDGETED G\$211,000 FOR THE CENTRAL FOOD UNIT, WHICH ADMINISTERS THE TITLE II AND WFP PROGRAMS; G\$500,000 IN DIRECT SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ASSOCIATED WITH TITLE II, WHICH IS A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OVER CY 1972; AND A G\$12,500 GRANT TO THE RED CROSS FOR ITS HELP IN ADMINISTERING THE MCH PROGRAM. ADDITIONALLY, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND GEORGETOWN CITY HEALTH DEPT. CONTRIBUTE ABOUT G\$60,000 IN SUPPORT OF TITLE II. GIVEN THE MAGNITUDE OF THE GOG'S PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT EFFORT, IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT ANY SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION IN TITLE II LOCAL CURRENCY FUNDING WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

5. THE CENTRAL FOOD UNIT, A DIVISION OF THE MINISTRY OF CO-OPERATIVES AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, IS A PLANNING AND MANAGERIAL ENTITY FOR THE STORAGE, DISTRIBUTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY ASPECTS OF BOTH TITLE II AND WFP FOOD PROGRAMS. THE UNIT IS SATISFACTORY. NO CHANGES IN ITS ROLE ARE ENVISIONED.

6. PHASING OUT OF THE TITLE II PROGRAMS (MCH AND FOOD-FOR-WORK) SHOULD BE POSSIBLE OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS, OWING TO THE GOVERNMENT'S DRIVE TO OBTAIN SELF SUFFICIENCY IN AGRICULTURE. OUR ESTIMATE IS THAT SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT HAVE EVEN MODERATE SUCCESS IN THIS ENDEAVOR, A PHASE-OUT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE WITHIN FIVE YEARS AT A MAXIMUM. SUCH A DECISION WOULD HAVE TO BE REVIEWED, HOWEVER, WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF PARA. 2. ADDITIONALLY, SUCH A DECISION WOULD HAVE TO BE REVIEWED IN LIGHT OF THE POSSIBLE DEARTH OF LOCAL CURRENCY RESOURCES. THEORETICALLY, GOOD SHOULD NOT BE A CONSTRAINT; POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND LOCAL CURRENCY, HOWEVER, MAY BE.

7. THE PRESENT TITLE II PROGRAMS ARE NOT WITHIN THE MISSION'S
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PAGE 03 GEORGE 00357 092025 Z

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